

DOCKET NO.: OPN-4377
Application No.: 10/817,532
Office Action Dated: March 6, 2006

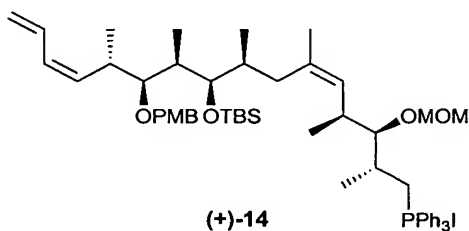
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REMARKS

Claims 1 to 33 are pending. A restriction has been required to one of two groups of inventions, characterized as Groups I and II. The Groups, claims, and associated subject matter, as set forth in the Office Action, are as follows.

- I. Claims 1-23, drawn to compounds of formula I and processes for preparing compound of formula I.
- II. Claims 24-33, drawn to processes for preparing compounds of formula IIIa.

Applicants hereby elect for prosecution the claims of Group I. Applicants hereby further elect the species as exemplified by compound (+)-14 found in **Example 11** at page 33 of the original specification.



It is Applicants' understanding that the above election is being made to aid the Examiner in conducting a search and examination of the claimed subject matter, and is not to be construed as limiting the scope of Applicants' claims. It is Applicants' understanding also that, if the elected subject matter is found to be allowable over the prior art, the search and examination will be expanded to cover other species, until it includes the full scope of the generic claims of the invention.

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Applicants believe that the foregoing constitutes a complete and full response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, an early and favorable Action is requested respectfully.

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